

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 21, 2003. Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 is the independent claim. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 11-2, 7, and 10 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snell (U.S. Patent No. 6,152,435; hereinafter "Snell"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Engibarov (U.S. Patent No. 5,060,920; hereafter "Engibarov"). The Office Action also rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engibarov in view of McConkey (U.S. Patent No. 5,074,536; hereafter "McConkey"). The Office Action also rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engibarov in view of Gaither (U.S. Patent No. 3,626,600; hereinafter "Gaither"). The Office Action also rejected Claim 9 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engibarov in view of Takisawa et al. (U.S. 6,383,890 hereafter "Takisawa").

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending application and claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's Claim 1 recites: "[A] holder for a cassette for semiconductor material substrates, comprising a base plate on which a guide member provided with at least two guides is secured, which cassette can be arranged between the guides, which enable the cassette to be aligned and identically situated with respect to the base plate upon each introduction to the holder, and a first side of the guide member which is facing away from the base plate is embodied so as to taper inwards, wherein a second side of the guide member facing the base plate is also embodied so as to taper inwards, so that a portion of the guide member situated closest to the cassette is arranged at a predetermined distance from the base plate."

It is respectfully submitted that neither Snell nor Engibarov recite or suggest a holder for a cassette of semiconductor material substrates with guides that enable the cassette to be aligned and identically situated with respect to a base plate on each introduction to the holder.

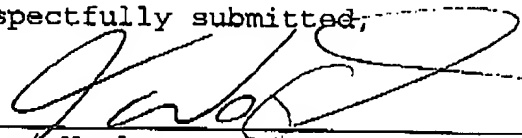
In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Snell teaches a multi-diameter vice clamp and collet jaw, and Engibarov teaches a quick-change jaw assembly for machining. Both references require tightening after insertion of the object to be clamped or fastened and do not perform any aligning function upon insertion, but rather upon tightening. Thus the references fail to recite or suggest

every element of Claim 1, and also fail to provide suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide such a holder. Claim 1 is believed patentable for at least these reasons.

Claims 2-10 depend from independent Claim 1 discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, however, each is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and should be individually considered on its own merits. In addition, Applicant respectfully believes the § 103 rejections of Claims 3, 5, and 9 to be moot in light of the above remarks and request their withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 20, 2003